

Appln No. 10/666,310  
Amendment dated December 11, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2007  
Docket No. BOC9-2003-0031 (400)

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for restricting resources consumed by a ghost agent comprising the steps of:

registering within a domain of a grid environment a ghost agent within a portion of a grid of said grid environment associated with [[a]] the domain, wherein said ghost agent is configured to move ~~aeross-domains~~ from said grid to another grid of [[a]] said grid environment in responsive response to movements of moving an associated host from said grid to said another grid, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the associated host within said grid;

responsive to said registering, conveying a containment policy for said domain to said ghost agent;

configuring said ghost agent according to said received containment policy; and

utilizing said containment policy of said ghost agent to restrict resources available to said ghost agent.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said utilizing step further comprises the steps of:

determining a resource utilization value for said ghost agent;

comparing said resource utilization value to a limit established by said containment policy; and

if said limit is exceeded, preventing said ghost agent from executing at least one operation.

Appln No. 10/666,310

Amendment dated December 11, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2007

Docket No. BOC9-2003-0031 (400)

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said preventing step further comprises the steps of:

deactivating said ghost agent;  
starting an idle timer for said ghost agent; and  
when said idle timer exceeds a time threshold, activating said ghost agent.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
establishing a default containment policy for said ghost agent, wherein said configuring step overrides said default containment policy.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
removing said ghost agent from said domain; and  
responsive to said removing step, de-registering said ghost agent from said domain.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:  
responsive to said de-registering step, configuring said containment policy of said ghost agent based upon a default containment policy.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
dynamically altering said containment policy of said ghost agent.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 7, wherein at least one other ghost agent is registered within the domain, and said altering step further comprising the step of:

altering limits of said containment policy for said domain based upon [[which]] a number of the ghost agents [[are]] registered within said domain.

Appln No. 10/666,310  
Amendment dated December 11, 2007  
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Docket No. BOC9-2003-0031 (400)

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:  
broadcasting said containment policy updates to registered ghost agents whenever said containment policy of said domain is altered.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~framework~~ system for restricting resources consumed by a ghost agent within one or more domains of a grid environment, the system comprising:  
at least one computing resource configured to manage a ghost registry disposed within a domain of a grid environment and at least one ghost agent disposed within a portion of a grid of said grid environment associated with said domain, wherein said ghost registry comprises a containment policy for said domain[[: and]], wherein said at least one ghost agent is configured to move from domain said grid to domain another grid within said grid environment in response to moving an associated host from said grid to another grid, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the associated host within said grid, and wherein said ghost agents adhere to said containment policy when disposed within said domain.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~framework~~ system of claim 10, wherein said computing resource is further configured to manage comprising:  
at least one registry agent configured to exchange data between said ghost registry and said ghost agents.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~framework~~ system of claim 10, wherein said ghost registry further comprises a policy engine configured to dynamically alter resource consumption limits of said containment policy based upon which ghost agents are registered with said domain.

Appln No. 10/666,310

Amendment dated December 11, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2007

Docket No. BOC9-2003-0031 (400)

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~framework~~ system of claim 10, further comprising:  
at least one other computing resource configured to manage a different ghost registry in a different domain of said grid environment having a different containment policy, wherein said ghost agents adhere to said different containment policy when disposed within said different domain.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~framework~~ system of claim 10, wherein said ghost agents further comprise a ghost containment policy, wherein said ghost agents adhere to said ghost containment policy when disposed within a domain that has no ghost registry.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium in a grid computing environment, comprising computer instructions for a ghost agent disposed within a grid of a grid environment, wherein said ghost agent is configured to move within said grid environment to follow movements of an associated host, said ghost agent comprising:

an interface for associating said ghost agent with a host within said grid;

a ghost log configured to record data relating to said host; and

a ghost controller configured to receive at least one containment policy for a domain associated with a portion of said grid in which the ghost agent is disposed,

wherein said ghost controller is further configured to restrict computing resources consumed by said ghost agent based upon said received containment policy, and wherein said ghost agent is configured to move from said grid to another grid in said grid environment in response to moving said associated host from said grid to said another grid.

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~machine-readable~~ computer-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a ~~machine~~ computer for causing the ~~machine~~ computer to perform

Appln No. 10/666,310  
Amendment dated December 11, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2007  
Docket No. BOC9-2003-0031 (400)

the steps of:

registering within a domain of a grid environment a ghost agent within a portion of a grid of said grid environment associated with [[a]] the domain, wherein said ghost agent is configured to move ~~aeross domains~~ from said grid to another grid of [[a]] said grid environment in responsive response to movements of moving an associated host from said grid to said another grid, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the associated host within said grid;

responsive to said registering, conveying a containment policy for said domain to said ghost agent;

configuring said ghost agent according to said received containment policy; and

utilizing said containment policy of said ghost agent to restrict resources available to said ghost agent.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~maehine-readable~~ computer-readable storage of claim 16, wherein said utilizing step further comprises the steps of:

determining a resource utilization value for said ghost agent;

comparing said resource utilization value to a limit established by said containment policy; and

if said limit is exceeded, preventing said ghost agent from executing at least one operation.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~maehine-readable~~ computer-readable storage of claim 17, wherein said preventing step further comprises the steps of:

deactivating said ghost agent;

starting an idle timer for said ghost agent; and

when said idle timer exceeds a time threshold, activating said ghost agent.

Appln No. 10/666,310  
Amendment dated December 11, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2007  
Docket No. BOC9-2003-0031 (400)

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable~~ computer-readable storage of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

establishing a default containment policy for said ghost agent, wherein said configuring step overrides said default containment policy.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable~~ computer-readable storage of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

removing said ghost agent from said domain; and  
responsive to said removing step, de-registering said ghost agent from said domain.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable~~ computer-readable storage of claim 20, further comprising the step of:

responsive to said de-registering step, configuring said containment policy of said ghost agent based upon a default containment policy.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable~~ computer-readable storage of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

dynamically altering said containment policy of said ghost agent.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable~~ computer-readable storage of claim [[16]] 22, wherein at least one other ghost agent is registered within the domain, and said altering step further comprising the step of:

altering limits of said containment policy for said domain based upon [[which]] a number of the ghost agents [[are]] registered within said domain.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable~~ computer-readable storage of claim

Appln No. 10/666,310  
Amendment dated December 11, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2007  
Docket No. BOC9-2003-0031 (400)

23, further comprising the step of:

broadcasting said containment policy updates to registered ghost agents whenever said containment policy of said domain is altered.

25. (Currently Amended) A system for restricting resources consumed by a ghost agent comprising:

a processing element of a computing resource within a grid environment, wherein the processing element is associated with a domain of the grid environment, and wherein the processing element is configured for:

means for registering within a domain of a grid environment a ghost agent within a portion of a grid of said grid environment associated with [[a]] the domain, wherein said ghost agent is configured to move across domains from said grid to another grid of [[a]] said grid environment in responsive response to movements of moving an associated host from said grid to said another grid, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the associated host within said grid.[:]]

means for responsive to said registering, conveying a containment policy for said domain to said ghost agent.[:]]

means for configuring said ghost agent according to said received containment policy.[:]] and

means for utilizing said containment policy of said ghost agent to restrict resources available to said ghost agent.